Confirm. No. 4509
512425-2094

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1 and 3-18 are now pending. Claim 1 has been amended to comply with the notice of non-compliance. No new matter has been added.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments of the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. CLOSING

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the claims are now in condition for allowance. However, should any minor issue preclude a Notice of Allowance, please contact the undersigned so that the issue can be resolved via Examiner's Amendment. Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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